

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

JOHNNIE EDWARD TRASK,)
an individual,)
Plaintiff,) Case No.: 4:16-cv-265
v.)
PRIMO VENTURE #1, LP)
A Texas Limited Partnership,)
Defendant.)
_____)

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, JOHNNIE EDWARD TRASK, through his undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint and sues PRIMO VENTURE #1, LP, a Texas Limited Partnership, for injunctive relief, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*, ("AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT" or "ADA") and Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code, Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. § 121.001 *et seq.*, and alleges:

JURISDICTION AND PARTIES

1. This is an action for declaratory and injunctive relief pursuant to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181, *et seq.*, (the "ADA"), and Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. § 121.001 *et seq.* This Court is vested with original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the subject matter of all other claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1337(a).

2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331(b), because the Defendant's Property, which is the subject of this action, is located in Harris County, Texas.

3. Plaintiff, JOHNNIE EDWARD TRASK (hereinafter referred to as "MR. TRASK" or "Plaintiff"), is a resident of the State of Texas in Harris County.

4. MR. TRASK is a qualified individual with a disability under the ADA. In 2002, MR. TRASK was severely injured and became disabled when he fell off a roof while on the job.

5. MR. TRASK's disability, at all times material hereto, impairs his ability to walk, stand and bend, all major life activities, and requires him to use a walker/crutches.

6. Defendant, PRIMO VENTURE #1, LP, a Texas Limited Partnership (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant"), is registered to do business in the State of Texas. Upon information and belief, Defendant is the owner, lessor and/or operator of the real property and improvements which are the subject of this action, to wit: the "Property," a retail store known as Sports Authority, generally located at 8625 FM 1960 Road W., Houston, Texas 77070.

7. All events giving rise to this lawsuit occurred in the Southern District of Texas.

COUNT I
(VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF THE ADA)

8. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates into this cause of action each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

9. The Property, a retail store, is open to the public and provides goods and services to the public.

10. Plaintiff visited the Property and attempted to utilize the goods and services offered at the Property and plans to return to the Property in the near future.

11. During his visit, MR. TRASK experienced serious difficulty accessing the goods and utilizing the services therein due to the architectural barriers discussed in this Complaint.

12. MR. TRASK continues to desire to visit the Property, but fears that he will again

encounter serious difficulty and safety hazards due to the barriers discussed herein which still exist.

13. Defendant has discriminated, and continues to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* and 28 C.F.R. § 36.302 *et seq.* by excluding and/or denying Plaintiff the benefits of the goods and services located on the Property by failing to provide and/or correct the following barriers to access which Plaintiff personally observed, encountered, and which hindered his access:

- A. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible exterior parking designated for disabled use due to excessive slopes caused by improperly placed ramps in access aisles;
- B. Plaintiff encountered an inaccessible restroom at the Property due to coat hook positioned too high and pipes lacking any protective cover; and
- C. Plaintiff encountered inaccessible counters due to absence of any lowered portion.

14. Upon information and belief, there are other current violations of the ADA and the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (“ADAAG”) at the Property, and only after a full inspection is performed by the Plaintiff or Plaintiff’s representatives can all said violations be identified.

15. To date, the readily achievable barriers and other violations of the ADA still exist and have not been remedied or altered in such a way as to effectuate compliance with the provisions of the ADA.

16. Independent of his intent to return as a patron to the Property, Plaintiff additionally intends to return to the Property as an ADA tester to determine whether the barriers to access stated herein have been remedied.

17. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property is readily achievable, structurally feasible and easily accomplishable without placing an undue burden on Defendant.

18. Removal of the barriers to access located on the Property would allow Plaintiff to fully utilize the goods and services located therein.

19. The Plaintiff has been obligated to retain undersigned counsel for the filing and prosecution of this action. Plaintiff is entitled to have his reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses paid by Defendant.

COUNT II
(VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 121 OF THE TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS CODE)

20. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates into this cause of action each and every allegation contained in the previous paragraphs of this Complaint.

22. Chapter 121 specifically addresses the ability of people with disabilities to integrate fully into society. Chapter 121 states the policy of Texas "is to encourage and enable persons with disabilities to participate fully in the social and economic life of the state, to achieve maximum personal independence, to become gainfully employed, and to otherwise fully enjoy and use all public facilities available within the state." Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann. §121.001.

23. Chapter 121.003 (d)(1) prohibits any failure to comply with Article 9102 of the Texas Civil Statutes, which is identical to the ADAAG.

24. Further, each violation of Chapter 121.004(b) provides for a conclusive presumption of damages of at least \$100.00 to the person with a disability.

25. Defendant's barriers to access as discussed herein have denied and continue to deny, the Plaintiff the opportunity to equally participate in or benefit from the goods, services,

and accommodations afforded to other individuals, thus violating Chapter 121.Tex. Hum. Res. Code Ann, § 121.001, and entitling Plaintiff to injunctive and statutory damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant and requests the following injunctive and declaratory relief:

- A. That the Court declare that the Property owned, leased, and/or operated by Defendant is in violation of the ADA;
- B. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to alter its facilities to make them accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities to the full extent required by Title III of the ADA;
- C. That the Court enter an Order directing Defendant to evaluate and neutralize its policies and procedures towards persons with disabilities for such reasonable time so as to allow Defendant to undertake and complete corrective procedures;
- D. That the Court award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs (including expert fees), and other expenses of suit, to the Plaintiff; and
- E. That the Court award such other and further relief as it deems necessary, just and proper.
- F. That this Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that the Defendant has violated the Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code.
- G. That this Court orders the Defendant to alter the aforesaid premises to make

such facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resources Code.

- H. That this Court award Plaintiff Statutory damages from the Defendant pursuant to Chapter 121 of the Texas Human Resource Code.
- I. That this Court award Plaintiff such other additional and proper relief as may be just and equitable.

By: /s/ Louis I. Mussman

Louis I. Mussman
Attorney-in-charge
Florida Bar No. 597155
S.D. TX No. 2274288
Ku & Mussman, P.A.
6001 NW 153rd Street, Suite 100
Miami Lakes, FL 33014
Tel: (305) 891-1322
Fax: (305) 891-4512
Louis@KuMussman.com

and

Seth P. Crosland
Local Counsel
Texas Bar No.: 24069551
S.D. TX No. 1504456
Crosland Law Firm
12225 Greenville Ave, Suite 700
Dallas, Texas 75246
Tel: (214) 810-5401
Fax: (214) 988-5794
seth@wellscrosland.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff